

Fulbright Suggests U.S. Revise Its Espionage

Must Keep President Aloof From Such Activity, He Says

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Chairman Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was on record today as believing the State Department should be given "greater prestige and authority" in directing foreign policy as one result of the current inquiry into why the summit conference failed.

He made the statement after the committee questioned Secretary of State Herter and other State Department officials behind closed doors all day yesterday about every detail of the ill-fated U-2 spy plane flight over Russia, and what part it played in the break-up of the summit conference.

The committee is in recess until Tuesday, when it will hear Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, under even greater security precautions.

Senator Fulbright indicated the probe probably will end next week, after testimony by Hugh Dryden, Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, on Thursday, and Defense Secretary Gates on Friday.

Statements Get Attention

A censored transcript of yesterday's hearing, made public piece-meal throughout the day, disclosed that several Democrats centered their questioning around the conflict in statements issued by various agencies here immediately after the U-2 plane went down over Russia on May 1, with Chairman Fulbright questioning the wisdom of the President becoming involved in and accepting responsibility for espionage.

Senator Fulbright said that it has been traditional in all nations that the heads of State have been kept above and apart from this activity, which he said involves "lying and cheating and murdering and violating the sovereignty of countries."

But Senators Lausche, Democrat of Ohio, and Wiley, Republican of Wisconsin, defended President Eisenhower's

decision to tell the truth about the U-2 and its mission after it became self-evident.

Lesson to World

Senator Lausche said that if he had been President he would have told the truth, and Senator Wiley agreed with the Ohioan, declaring that Mr. Eisenhower in 1960 had taught the world a lesson in new diplomacy "by telling the truth, and I think it will echo down through the years."

"It is echoing down the years already," replied Chairman Fulbright. "This is the principal echo that has arisen from this whole matter."

"The tragedy is that this is made the principal echo, but all of the misdeeds of the Soviet are looked upon as inconsequential," Senator Lausche rejoined.

"Well, the Senator is entirely incorrect in that statement," Senator Fulbright replied. "He draws conclusions that are not justified by the record or any statement that I have heard before the committee."

In a press conference later, Senator Fulbright said that in this age of space exploration and missiles it may be that the traditional methods of handling espionage will have to be discarded for some new means of supervision by an agency like the United Nations. But he thought the recent departure from tradition warrants study by the committee.

"Emotional" Members

Chairman Fulbright said he did not think yesterday's questioning was partisan, but added "we have some emotional members" on the committee.

He did not name the emotional members, but the transcript revealed heated exchanges, some of them involving Senators Wiley and Gore, Democrat of Tennessee. Senator Gore took a leading role in pin-pointing differences in the statements issued by various officials about the spy plane incident.

Senator Wiley called on the committee to halt the investigation "and not try to ball up further the issue." He warned that secrets have a way of leaking out of closed Senate hearings and asked:

"Are we going to ball up the agency that gets information, that has done such a tremendous job?"

At another point during Senator Gore's questioning of Secretary Herter, Senator Wiley said:

"It is not the business of this committee to expose to the people of this country a mechanism that is so important to preserve the life and integrity of this country, and I mean the CIA. It is that mechanism that made possible this series of 3 1/2 years of exploratory missions over the Soviet Union."

He protested against the committee's plans to call Mr. Dulles as a witness. Senator Fulbright, in reply, pointed out that the inquiry had been approved by President Eisenhower and that Mr. Dulles had agreed to testify.

The program of flights involving the one on May 1 was approved a few weeks before the summit conference, Secretary Herter and Under Secretary of State Dillon told the committee.

Mr. Herter said the question of halting the flights was an issue at that time, although he knew that the summit conference was coming up.

"When the matter came before me, I had the opportunity of disapproving it and did not do so," the Secretary concluded. "Not it, but the program. He said this was a matter of weeks before the summit meeting."

Asked at one point if he could have vetoed the plane spy program, Mr. Herter said:

"No, I could only have given my advice to the President. The President, he said, 'took the responsibility for any final decision.'"

Heavily Censored

One of the most heavily censored parts of Mr. Herter's testimony came late in the day while the Secretary was being questioned by Senator Fulbright about a statement of his that was interpreted at first as indicating the United States would continue flights over Russia.

Senator Fulbright noted that Mr. Khrushchev had referred in his May 5 speech to overflights July 2, 1956, April 9, 1960, and the May day flight, and had said the one on April 9 resulted in orders to the Soviet military not to let it happen again.

Then three pages of the transcript were left blank and then picked up again with Senator Fulbright asking:

"The evidence is quite clear that Mr. Khrushchev, if he didn't know positively, he certainly suspected that it was our planes going across his territory, didn't he?"

Mr. Herter: That is what I assume.

Senator Fulbright: And it comes back to this point that he hadn't raised such a terrible fuss about it until this May 1 flight. But isn't the reconciliation . . . in the fact that our Government did take the position regarding the May 1 flight and this program, that this is a deliberate program which we intend to continue?

Mr. Herter: Not which we intend to continue. That was never said.

Senator Fulbright: He interpreted it as such.

Mr. Herter: It might be if you want to interpret the words that way. Certainly from what I said, that is a far-fetched interpretation. I think he was interpreting it that way for his own purpose.

The exchange referred to Secretary Herter's news conference comments defending the overflights but which he was asked to close hearing.

He seemed to show, however, that the flights were necessary.